THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Techon-Economic Feasibility Report submitted by M/s. RITBS has been examined in great detail. A High Power Committee of Directions under the Chairmanship of Lt. Govenor, Delhi and a Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary , Delhi has been constituted. These Committees, will, *inter-alia*. coordinate and oversee the preparatory actions of various agencies which would be involved in the setting of the MRTS in Delhi.

(b) The Delhi Administration has entrusted M/s. RITES with the task of detailed locational survey reports. The project cost as estimated by RITBS in their report, is Rs. 5378 crores, including foreign exchange worth Rs. 529.6 crores, at 1989 price level. These figures have not been updated.

(c) A project of this magnitude requires funding from various sources including budgetary support from Government, surplus from property development, taxes and levies, suppliers credit, funding from bilateral and multilateral sources which require to be identified before any decision is taken.

(d) The whole project is in the preliminary stage and hence it is too premature to decide upon the date of commencement of work upon MRTS.

Abolition of the practice of carrying night soil on head

710. SHRI BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the practice of carrying night soil on head is still in vogue in the country;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to do away with this practice;

(c) whether Government propose to enact some laws in order to ban this practice;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the names of states, where this practice has been banned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India has since launched the scheme of Low Cost Sanitation and Liberation of Seavengers. Guidelines have been circulated to the State Governments and Union Territories for implementation of the scheme in a time bound manner. The scheme envisages conversion of dry latrines/ construction of new low cost water seal pour flush latrines on a 'whole town' bais in 500 towns annually. It is being operated through the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) by providing a mix of subsidy from the Central Government and loans from HUDCO in a synchronised manner. The State Governments have been requested to amend the municipal by-laws to prevent further construction of dry latrines. They have also been requested to ensure conversion of dry latrines in Government buildings immediately. A Coordination Committee has been set up in the Ministry of Urban Development for clearance of the proposals received from the State Governments. Review meetings are held from time to time to energise the impelmentation of the scheme.

(c) to (e) Since sanitation is a State Subject, a proposal for a Central legislation for making the employment of manual scavening a punishable offence from a future date, is being pursued with the State Government.

Completion of Subarnarekha Project

711. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an inordinate delay in the completion of multi-purpose Subarnarekha project;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the project is expected to be completed ; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c) Subarnarekha Multi purpose Project originally programmed to be compluted in VII Plan, has been delay due to paucity of funds, delay in lan acquistion, rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected people and changes in scopes and design of the project. The project is now scheduled to spill over beyond VIII Plan.

(d) To ensure expeditious completion of the project, in addition to normal budgetary support, an Agreement of US Dollors 127 million was signed in November, 1982 by the State Government of Bihar with the World Bank. The credit was fully disbursed by August, 1989. The Government of Bihar proposes to seek further lo an assistance from the World Bank for completion of the remaining part (Subarnarekha Multipurpose Project Phase-II) of the project.

Irrigation projects of Assam

712. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the details of Assam's irrigation projects which are lying with Government for clearance till date ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURECES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): A statement giving details of irrigation projects in Assam together whit their appraisal status is attached.

Statement

(Rs. in Crores/Benefits in Thousand Hectares)

Name of the Project	Estimated cost	Benfits in thousand hectares	Date of receipt in Central Water Commission	Status of Appraisal
A. *Major Projects*				
Pagladiya Dam . .	287·86	54·16	6/90	Considered by Advisory Committee in July 1990 and found acceptable subject to compliance of its observations on environmental and forest clearance, review of ground water utilisation and inclusion of hydro power enegration by the State Government.
B *Medium Proects*				
Burisuti Irrigation .	25·31	11·58	12/90	The State Government is required to comply with the observations of Central Water Commission on the modified project proposal.
Gerufella Irrigation .	28·63	10·58	9/90	The Project report was returned to the State Government in January, 1991 for submission of modified project report.

Brahmaputra Board, Assam

713. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURECES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Brahmaputra Board in Assam is almost non functional;

(b) what action Government are taking to re-activate the Board; and

(c) whether any plan and estimate has been submitted by the Board and if so, the action taken by Government so far thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The Brahmaputra Board continues to function as per functions evnisaged under the Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980.